

## Message Text

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 22, 1977

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT JUNE 22 PRESS  
BRIEFING:

Q: DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE A PLAN IT WISHES TO IMPOSE  
ON SOUTH AFRICA?

A: NO. AS A MATTER OF FACT, WE DON'T HAVE A PLAN TO IMPOSE  
ON SOUTH AFRICA.

Q: IS THE UNITED STATES INSISTING ON MAJORITY RULE IN SOUTH  
AFRICA?

A: I THINK THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE CLEAR THAT WE BE-  
LIEVE THERE ARE DIRECTIONS IN WHICH SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD  
MOVE. BASED ON OUR OWN EXPERIENCE IN WHAT HAS BEEN A LONG  
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PROCESS TOWARD DEMOCRATIC RULE IN THIS COUNTRY, WE FEEL  
THAT THE DIRECTION IN WHICH THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD MOVE IS  
CLEAR, AND WE'VE SO INDICATED.

WE HAVE NEITHER A TIMETABLE NOR SET-IN-CONCRETE PROPOSALS  
FOR WHAT SOUTH AFRICA SHOULD DO TODAY, TOMORROW, A WEEK

FROM NOW OR WHATEVER. BUT WE CLEARLY DO BELIEVE THAT AFRICA HAS GOT TO MOVE TOWARD A FULLY DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM.

Q: DOES THIS MEAN ONE MAN-ONE VOTE?

A: I THINK THE ISSUE OF HOW YOU PHRASE THE END OF IT IS FAR LESS IMPORTANT THAN A MOVEMENT THAT WE BELIEVE HAS TO BE MADE TOWARD A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY, AND I THINK WE HAVE SAID THIS REPEATEDLY.

NOW BASIC TO WHAT WE HAVE AS POLICY IN THAT AREA, IT IS OUR SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCIPLE THAT ALL PEOPLE -- REGARDLESS OF RACE, COLOR OR CREED -- SHOULD BE ACCORDED BASIC POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS. AND PART OF THAT IS THAT WE DO BELIEVE IN THE FULL POLITICAL PARTICIPATION OF ALL ADULTS.

BUT I THINK THAT I HAVE TO STRESS EMPHATICALLY THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT OFFERED A TIMETABLE, HAS NOT SPECIFIED ONE, ON HOW THAT OBJECTIVE IS TO BE REALIZED.

FURTHERMORE, TO FOCUS ON THE NOTION OF ONE MAN-ONE VOTE EXCLUSIVELY SIMPLY DISTORTS THE MEANING OF OUR POLICY AND OUR INTENTIONS REGARDING SOUTH AFRICA. FOR US THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE IS SIMPLY WHETHER HUMAN DIGNITY AND BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD BE THE PROVINCE OF ALL THE CITIZENS OF SOUTH AFRICA.

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Q: WELL, HOW DO YOU ANSWER THE QUESTION THAT, I THINK IT WAS, 47 OF THE 49 AFRICAN STATES DO NOT HAVE MULTI-PARTY DEMOCRACY. WHY SINGLE OUT SOUTH AFRICA?

A: WELL, IN THE FIRST PLACE, OF COURSE, THE SUGGESTION THAT WE ARE SINGLING OUT SOUTH AFRICA IN WHAT IS A BASIC POLICY WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS ENUNCIATED THAT OUR VIEW OF WHAT WE BELIEVE IS THE FUNDAMENTAL ASPIRATION OF ALL PEOPLE IS INCORRECT. WE HAVE NOT SINGLED OUT SOUTH AFRICA - ANY MORE THAN WE HAVE OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE SUGGESTED WE HAVE SINGLED OUT THEM FOR THE APPLICATION OF THIS BASIC APPROACH TO FOREIGN POLICY.

Q: WELL, VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE TRAVELED 4,000 MILES TO DELIVER THIS MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER LAST MONTH. NOW, WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER 46 COUNTRIES IN AFRICA?

A: LET ME SAY THAT IN RESPECT TO A SPECIFIC APPLICATION IN THIS CASE ON THE WHOLE SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTION, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT WHAT IS A POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE, POTENTIALLY VIOLENT SITUATION -- THAT MOVEMENT TOWARD BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS,

BASIC POLITICAL RIGHTS, FOR THE PEOPLE OF THAT AREA IS THE BEST WAY TO AVERT VIOLENCE, INSTABILITY AND BLOODSHED AND, IN FACT, BEST SERVES THE COMMON INTERESTS OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THAT AREA -- BLACK AND WHITE.

Q: ARE WE TELLING OTHER AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS THAT THEY SHOULD ALSO MOVE TO A DEMOCRACY AND HAVE FULL PARTICIPATION?

A: I AM NOT NOW GOING TO GO DOWN A LIST OF ALL THE COUNTRIES IN WHICH OTHER FORMS OF GOVERNMENT TAKE PLACE OTHER THAN A FULLY DEMOCRATIC ONE. I WOULD SIMPLY SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES IN FACT WELCOME AND ENCOURAGE FULL UNCLASSIFIED

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HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE--THAT THIS DOES NOT TAKE THE FORM OF TRYING TO INTERFERE, INTERVENE, IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THOSE COUNTRIES. IT IS SIMPLY A POLICY STATEMENT WHICH WE HAVE MADE REPEATEDLY AND THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE CLEAR SINCE THE FIRST DAY HE CAME IN TO OFFICE.

THIS SAME QUESTION ARISES FROM TIME TO TIME EVERY TIME A STATEMENT IS MADE ON HUMAN RIGHTS. I JUST AM GOING TO HAVE TO REPEAT HERE THAT WE ARE NOT GOING TO GO INTO A LAUNDRY LIST. AT THOSE TIMES THAT WE FIND IT'S APPROPRIATE, WE WILL SPEAK ON THS SUBJECT.

Q: WHAT CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE MEETING YESTERDAY BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND SOUTH AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA?

A: I THINK THE ONLY WAY THAT I CAN CHARACTERIZE IT IS THAT IT WAS A VERY FRANK DISCUSSION. IT LASTED FOR ROUGHLY AN HOUR AND A HALF. IT COVERED A NUMBER OF TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, BOTH AS THEY AFFECT RHODESIA, NAMIBIA AND SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF.

Q: IS THERE ANY CONCERN AT THE DEPARTMENT, HODDING, THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S COOPERATION IN TRYING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF RHODESIA MIGHT BE LESSENED BY THIS NEW POLICY TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF?

A: WE ARE CONTINUING TO WORK WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT IN AN EFFORT TO COME TO A PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE SITUATION THERE. WE SEE NO INDICATION THAT OUR ABILITY TO WORK WITH THEM HAS BEEN IMPAIRED.

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Q: FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA SAID THAT HE FELT THERE WOULD BE A RAPID WORSENING IN RELATIONS BETWEEN HIS COUNTRY AND THE UNITED STATES IF THE U.S. WERE TO INSIST ON A MAJORITY RULE

IN SOUTH AFRICA OR WHAT HE TERMED ONE MAN-ONE VOTE.

IS THAT THE VIEW OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A: I DON'T WANT TO GET IN A DEBATE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF SOUTH AFRICA. I WOULD SIMPLY OBSERVE THAT IT WOULD BE A MISINTERPRETATION OF OUR POLICY TO SUGGEST THAT WE ARE DEMANDING THE IMMEDIATE OR THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW IMPLEMENTATION OF ANY KIND OF A PLAN.

Q: HODDING, THAT IS NOT THE QUESTION.

A: YOU SEE, BUT THE QUESTION IS, I AM TRYING TO SAY AS NICELY AS POSSIBLE, IS NOT A QUESTION WE UNDERSTAND APPLIES.

Q: IS NOT?

A: IS NOT SOMETHING WHICH APPLIES. WE HAVE NOT DEMANDED ONE MAN-ONE VOTE TOMORROW, WHICH IS THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS SPEAKING.

Q: HOW ABOUT AT ANY TIME? THAT IS NOT THE CONTEXT.

A: I REPEAT.

YES, AS A MATTER OF FACT, I READ THIS MORNING WHAT HE SAID IN HIS INTERVIEW THIS MORNING AND HE VERY CLEARLY WAS SUGGESTING WE WERE ASKING THAT.

WHAT I AM SAYING, AND I REPEAT, IS THAT WE BELIEVE THAT A PEACEFUL AND JUST SOLUTION TO THE SITUATION OF SOUTHERN

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AFRICA AND SOUTH AFRICA PARTICULARLY WILL BEST BE ACHIEVED BY A MOVEMENT TOWARD FULL DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION BY ALL CITIZENS IN THE AFFAIRS OF THEIR COUNTRY.

Q: I DON'T THINK YOU ARE GIVING A CLEAR ANSWER. DID THE UNITED STATES ASK FOR MAJORITY RULE THERE AT ANY TIME?

A: I HAVE JUST GIVEN YOU THE ANSWER. WE HAVE INDICATED  
VERY CLEARLY WHAT WE THINK IS A PROPER DIRECTION IN WHICH  
TO MOVE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE STATEMENTS ON RHODESIA  
THAT MR. SMITH HAS DONE EVERYTHING THAT HE CAN AND IS NOT  
TO BLAME FOR WHAT IS HAPPENING THERE RIGHT NOW?

A: NO. I DON'T HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THAT. CHRISTOPHER

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